

OKINAWA MARINE

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Students of the University of the Ryukyus Wind Orchestra Band Club and members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band share sheet music and performed together during a concert May 9 at the Camp Foster Theater. The concert was held as a way to strengthen relations between the Okinawa and U.S. military community.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

University, III MEF bands share musical talents during concert

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The University of the Ryukyus Wind Orchestra Band Club and the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band performed a joint concert May 9 at the Camp Foster Theater.

The musicians rehearsed and performed

together as a way to strengthen relationships between the Okinawa and U.S. communities.

The concert performed before an audience of Okinawa and U.S. community members, featured a variety of Japanese and American music with each band showcasing different performances as a way to share the musical nuances

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DOD to implement furlough plan

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Most of the Department of Defense civilian workforce will undergo furloughs of up to 11 days beginning this summer, according to a new message from U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to federal employees. Furloughs will begin no earlier than July 8, allowing managers enough time to give their employees required notification.

In a press release dated May 14, Hagel said civilians who are deployed or temporarily assigned to a combat zone will be exempt from the cuts, along with a few other exceptions dictated by law.

“I have made this decision very reluctantly because I know that the furloughs will disrupt lives and impact DOD operations,” said Hagel. “I recognize the significant hardship this places on you and your families.”

The furloughs are a result of sequestration, a law that went into effect March 1. It imposes across-the-board cuts on DOD and other federal agencies.

The DOD had originally planned for furloughs lasting up to 22 days, then reduced that number to 14. Hagel said they were able to roll back those cuts further through “vigorous efforts to meet our budgetary shortfalls through actions other than furlough.”

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Marines receive new equipment, upgrade capabilities

Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Marines with Electronics Maintenance Company received a new calibration system recently and trained with the equipment April 29 to May 10 at the battalion's calibration lab on Camp Kinser.

Marines depend on their equipment to function properly regardless of their military occupational specialty. When it doesn't function properly, it's important to fix it quickly and return it to Marines who need it most.

The company, which is part of 3rd Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, provides this service to keep III Marine Expeditionary Force in a high state of readiness.

The new system enhances the unit's capability to calibrate various pieces of equipment via mechanical, fiber optic and radio frequency methods.

“For instance, we calibrate the meters inside the shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon, so when a Marine pulls the trigger, it sends

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Lance Cpl. Justin W. Ivie, background, and Lance Cpl. Timothy R. Smith, test the fiber optics of the light-wave measurement system May 9 at the 3rd Maintenance Battalion calibration lab on Camp Kinser. Smith and Ivie are calibration technicians with 3rd Maintenance Bn., Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

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Okinawa community, single
Marine program compete during
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Ideas inspire partnership

Lasting bonds develop after positive first impressions

Robert D. Eldridge

Some readers may have attended the recent joint concert between the University of the Ryukyus Wind Orchestra Band Club and the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, voted the best band in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2012.

This was the first time the university's band, which was established in 1955, and the III MEF Band performed together. The performance was magic. Having witnessed the relationship between the respective band leaders and musicians firsthand, from inception through the concert itself, was truly inspiring.

The suggestion for the joint concert came to my attention during the first community relations idea contest sponsored by Marine Corps Installations Pacific for residents of Okinawa Prefecture earlier this spring. The young man who proposed it was full of ideas, and actually submitted several at the same time.

I first met him several years ago when he asked our office to have me speak about the Marine Corps and the U.S.-Japan alliance at a summer conference he was helping to host at his university in 2010. I gladly accepted. He also participated in our first Marine Corps 101 Seminar, conducted in 2011.

He expressed an interest in participating in our internship program for Japanese students, which began in 2010, and during the initial interview he talked about the concert idea. The following week, we visited Chief Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove, the III MEF Band director, who gave the young man and band members a tour of the III MEF Band building and studios, and immediately

accepted a request to practice and perform together.

During our interaction, I asked him why he was so interested in doing so much with the Marine Corps. He told me he grew up on Ie Shima, an island off the western coast of Motobu Peninsula in northern Okinawa. Ie Shima is host to the Marine Corps' Ie Shima Training Facility. Throughout his childhood he played with Marines who were stationed on the island. To him, the Marines were like big brothers and sisters.

The Marines who were stationed on Ie Shima years ago may not realize it, but the interaction they had with their neighbors,

"... the relationships we have now are not only everything, but they are everlasting. One act of kindness has an exponential impact."

especially the children, spawned inspiration, ideas and close relations that have blossomed into even bigger ideas, deeper relationships, more activities and, hopefully, enduring programs that bring joy and happiness to new generations of Americans and Japanese.

In other words, the relationships we have now are not only everything, but they are everlasting. One act of kindness has an exponential impact.

We cannot even imagine the positive impact that the interaction during the rehearsals and meals together, and the success of the concert itself, will have on future Marines, students of the university, and their families, friends and neighbors.

I encourage all the Marines, sailors and their families to interact as much as possible with our Okinawa friends and neighbors. These relationships now, especially with the youth, may grow in ways we cannot even imagine.

Eldridge is the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7, government and external affairs, MCIPAC.



AROUND THE CORPS

A Marine fires an AT-4 during training May 8 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. The training included repetitions of the obstacle course, five-mile endurance course, the leadership reaction course and a live-fire of the AT-4. The Marine is with Company B, Marine Barracks Washington. Photo by Lance Cpl. Larry Babilya





Marines provide security while dressed in mask-only mission oriented protective posture equipment May 3 aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., at a training exercise during a super squad challenge. The exercise simulated a chemical weapons attack and tested how fast the Marines could adjust to various MOPP-level conditions. The Marines are with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols



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DOD awards Camp Butler for environmental program

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler's environmental office was recognized in April by the Department of Defense as part of the 2013 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards.

Annually, the DOD honors individuals, teams and installations for outstanding achievements, innovative environmental practices and partnerships promoting quality of life and increasing efficiency without compromising mission success.

MCB Camp Butler was recognized for its programs, which enhanced environmental quality while sustaining the Marine Corps' ability to effectively train and maintain force readiness. MCB Camp Butler's environmental program proactively supported mission readiness by providing the most extensive environmental training program within the Asia-Pacific region for DOD installations, and completing plans and environmental analyses using in-house staff to save time and money, as well as effectively managing land entrusted to the Marine Corps, according to the award press release by the DOD.

The environmental program was evaluated by the following criteria: how well bases managed their programs and how successfully the program reduced the sources of waste and harmful emissions, all while maintaining and improving mission and environmental safety.

"Using in-house staff and resources, MCB Camp Butler's program maintains and fully implements an environmental management system that has exceeded DOD requirements," said Joseph Vogel, the environmental director of MCB Camp Butler. "By creating a regional EMS that incorporates installations in Japan, Republic of Korea, and the U.S., our management review board allows for sharing challenges and successes, and for visibility of EMS objectives throughout the region."

Throughout the past two years, MCB Camp Butler has achieved numerous environmental successes. One is the capture of cane toads, which are one of the world's most invasive species because of its poisonous glands and overwhelming appetite. By the end of 2011, environmental staff and volunteers captured 589 cane toads. After monitoring potential breeding sites, the staff did not find any signs of breeding, indicating the cane toad capture was effective, according to the DOD release.

"We are extremely glad that the capture was successful," said Vogel. "Many times we do not solve problems like this in time, and it costs even more money if the problem spreads to other bases."

MCB Camp Butler was also recognized for collecting more than 9 million pounds of recyclables from nearly 700 locations throughout Okinawa in the fiscal years 2011 and 2012, which generated nearly \$2 million.

"Recycling plays a big role in the environment," said Vogel. "This is a great accomplishment."

The environmental office was also evaluated on how its environmental program effectively facilitated military readiness and mission activities.

"MCB Camp Butler faces many unique environmental challenges due to its many installations and training areas," said Vogel. "We have



Japanese contractors recently constructed one of the Department of Defense's first wind turbines in Japan adjacent to Building 1 on Camp Foster. The turbine will generate clean power and help reduce Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler's carbon footprint and utility costs. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr

several programs in effect to ensure training is still possible. For example, the erosion prevention program helps us effectively maintain various training ranges throughout the region."

The environmental program not only helps the military, but also helps certify hazardous waste disposal by American and Japanese contractors.

"Our environmental compliance course, part of the comprehensive environmental training and education program, is a mobile, in-house training class offered in both Japanese and English," said Karen Balabis, EMS coordinator for MCB Camp Butler. "It is aimed at providing training to personnel and their supervisors assigned to duties involving actual, or potential, exposure to hazardous waste."

Additionally, with restructuring the ECC, the staff assigned to the MCB Camp Butler environmental office integrated online courses to assist in reducing duplicate training classes.

"By incorporating online training into the ECC, we have been able to reduce the amount of in-class time required to achieve certification, thereby increasing the number of courses we offer," added Vogel. "We also provided Japanese Freon recovery certification and recertification courses for Japanese employees on Okinawa and at the Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji."

The environmental program will continue to develop and maintain a balance between the Marine Corps and the environment it operates in, according to Vogel.

"It's a great feeling to be recognized for our program," said Vogel. "We will continue to do whatever it takes to try and improve the environment throughout MCB Camp Butler and the Asia-Pacific region."

BRIEFS

III MEF BAND SUMMER CONCERT

The III MEF Band is hosting a concert June 1 at the Camp Foster Theater.

The concert is open to the public, including all master labor contract and indirect hire agreement employees, family members and friends. Admission is free.

The first performance will be held at 2 p.m. The second performance will be held at 7 p.m.

For more information about the concert call Masaaki Ishiki at 645-4220.

POST OFFICE MEMORIAL DAY HOURS

The following holiday hours will be in effect for all Marine Corps post offices in observance of Memorial Day:

- May 25: normal working hours; parcel pick up and retail services 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- May 26: closed
- May 27: closed
- May 28: Normal working hours; parcel pick up 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; retail services 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 637-0124.

INSTALLATION GATES CLOSED

Camps McTureous and Courtney's Gates 1, also known as the Main Gates, will be closed May 18 from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

To enter and exit Camp Courtney, please use Gate 3, the Housing Gate. To enter and exit Camp McTureous, please use Gate 2, the Back Gate, which is located on the southwest side of the camp.

For more information, call Mr. Warfield at 622-9394

NEW VEHICLE POLICY AT CAMP FOSTER PEDESTRIAN GATE

Due to safety concerns for pedestrians and drivers, stopping a vehicle next to the Kubasaki pedestrian gate, along Highway 330, to drop students off is prohibited. Any vehicle stopped in this location will be issued a citation.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to Camp Foster camp services at 645-7317.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbf.ct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Petraeus visits Okinawa to give financial advice

Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Hollister K. Petraeus, the assistant director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Service Member Affairs, visited Camp Foster and Kadena Air Base May 9-10.

CFPB's mission is to educate consumers about abusive financial practices and study patterns in the consumer financial markets. The bureau also serves as a watchdog to protect military families from predatory practices by financial institutions.

"(The bureau) actually enforces about 18 federal consumer laws," said Petraeus. "That means we can supervise and examine banks, credit unions, payday lenders and auto lenders. When I say supervise, that means we can look at their books and see if they're complying with the law. If they're not, we can help them fix it if it's minor. If it's major, we have an enforcement division that can actually file charges."

While the organization originally focused on investigating credit card complaints, it has recently expanded its role to cover mortgage and loan issues.

The CFPB can provide anyone with financial information; however, CFPB focuses its efforts toward military families because of the unique challenges they face, according to Petraeus. Service members move often and have a steady paycheck, which makes them a target for scams and other unethical practices.

"The CFPB's goal is to find out how the military is being impacted by negative programs that are taking money from service members," said Anthony Green, a personal financial management specialist with Marine Corps Community Services. "The goal is to get an over-arching picture of what happens to us financially, specifically active-duty service members, reservists, the National Guard, veterans and retirees."

Petraeus led conferences with various target audiences to assess and assist in consumer awareness and financial education. She also spoke with installation commanders and senior leaders during roundtable discussions and town hall meetings.



Hollister K. Petraeus speaks to service members May 10 at the Keystone Theater on Kadena Air Base during a town hall meeting. Petraeus is the assistant director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Service Member Affairs. Photo by Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton

Petraeus spent time discussing who predatory lenders are and how they victimize consumers.

"Those are people who basically charge outrageous interest rates," said Petraeus. "If you (search the internet for) military loans, you would find about 50 million. Many of them are internet lending companies who have military-sounding names, but if you look at the fine print, a lot of them have interest rates that range anywhere from 80 to 400 percent."

Petraeus offered further guidance to keep service members from being victimized by these lenders.

"Be cautious. I know it's human nature to just nod your head and say you understood it if someone gives you a long, complicated explanation," said Petraeus. "Don't be afraid to say, 'I don't want to sign this today. I want to take it to a judge advocate general or legal assistance office.'"

Petraeus expressed that even while stationed abroad, service members have a voice and the CFPB is available to listen.

"I consider it a great privilege to have someone of Mrs. Petraeus' stature here to answer my

questions directly," said Marie Lewis, a Marine spouse who attended the town hall meeting on Camp Foster. "She explained the types of deception some institutions will use, such as illegally posting the Marine Corps seal on their website to make it look as if the military endorses that institution. Now I know not to take their word for it."

The meetings also highlighted the many resources available to service members.

Lewis has taken advantage of those free services with her husband.

"We received sound guidance from Mr. Green during one of the free investment workshops," she said. "We are saving to buy our first home, and the time we've spent with Mr. Green, and now Mrs. Petraeus, has definitely made us better-prepared."

Green stressed that service members should attend financial meetings and use the other available resources to the greatest extent possible.

"One of the most important things that every service member—not just right now but in years to come—needs to do is become more financially sound and knowledgeable; that's the key," said Green.

Marine Corps Reserve provides options for Marines

Lance Cpl. John S. Gargano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP SMEDLEY D. BUTLER — The Marine Corps Reserve transition team visited several Marine Corps installations throughout Okinawa May 6-10 to inform active-duty Marines about their options to continue serving as members of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve.

The transition team spoke about different types of programs, benefits and options available to Marines.

"The great thing about the Marine Corps Reserve is Marines have the opportunity to continue serving while they pursue other goals," said Maj. George F. Farmakis, the III Marine Expeditionary Force reserve liaison officer and individual mobilization augmentees operational sponsor. "For Marines who still want to serve their country, the Reserve provides a great opportunity."

Although the tangible effect of remaining in uniform, if only part time, is appealing to many Marines, continuing their medical coverage may appeal to others.

One of the benefits of the program is the ability for Marines to continue receiving their Tricare benefits, unless they are enrolled in the federal employee health program.

"The Reserve programs enable Marines to continue participating in the Tricare Reserve select program, which is available to all service members serving in Reserve components," said Sgt. Shanna L. Diep, reserve transition advisor for III MEF. "As long as they pay the premium, they will

continue to receive full medical insurance."

Four options are available to Marines who are considering joining the Reserve: the Selected Marine Corps Reserve, the Individual Mobilization Augmentee, the Active Reserve and the Individual Ready Reserve.

For Marines considering the SMCR, they will become active-duty Marines one weekend a month and two weeks out of the year. For those considering the IMA route, they will attach to an active-duty component to fill skill intensive or time sensitive requirements and critical billets in order to increase responsiveness and operational readiness. Marines opting for the AR program are considered part of the active-duty component for their time on Active Reserve. This includes career opportunities with AR members receiving active-duty pay and entitlements, including potentially being eligible to attain active-duty retirement benefits. Finally, Marines who elect to be in the IRR can be activated anytime during national emergencies to assist as directed.

"Marine Corps Reserve programs are an awesome way to stay with the Marine Corps," said Staff Sgt. Brian T. Joseph, the Asia-Pacific area reserve transition coordinator, III MEF. "Marines should brush aside any stigma they might have about the Reserve. It is a great opportunity to stay involved."

By transitioning to a Reserve unit, Marines can bring all the experience and leadership from their time on active-duty into the Reserve and civilian sectors while allowing them to stay involved and keep their options open.

For more information about the Reserve programs, Marines can contact the III MEF Reserve liaison branch at 622-6004 or their units' career planners.

Marines pull together during competition



Cpl. Cynthia S. Raiche leads her team during a 7-ton truck-pull event at Roberts Field on Camp Kinser May 14 as part of the 3rd Maintenance Battalion "wrench-off." The event was designed so the battalion's five companies could compete against each other in various challenges such as: a Humvee pit crew relay, weapons systems disassembly and reassembly relay, log toss relay and the truck-pull. Raiche is a maintenance management specialist with Engineer Maintenance Company, 3rd Maintenance Bn., Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

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Still, the DOD is short more than \$30 billion in its operation and maintenance accounts, which are the source of most civilian pay. The shortfall has been exacerbated by higher than expected wartime operating costs, said Hagel.

Most workers can expect one furlough day per week, continuing through the end of

the current fiscal year.

Managers for individual organizations have been given the authority to develop their own procedures to minimize the possible adverse impact on operations.

"The president and I are deeply appreciative of your patience, your hard work, and your dedication and contributions to the critical mission of helping protect Ameri-

ca's national security," said Hagel. "I am counting on all of you to stay focused on this vital mission in the days ahead."

Hagel emphasized that furloughs are, and will remain, a last resort. "If our budgetary situation permits us to end furloughs early, I would strongly prefer to do so," he said. "That is a decision I will make later in the year."

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the proper electrical signal that fires the weapon," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin R. Schultz, a metrology technician with battalion.

Instructors assigned to the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona, Calif., flew to Okinawa to train the maintainers who will use the ANTSM 214 Alpha system, which consists of four, 20 foot by 8 foot expeditionary shelters with complete calibration capabilities.

All of the calibration systems used within the Marine Corps require some form of initial testing to ensure they are functioning properly, according to Romeo V. Galbreath, an engineering technician and instructor with NSWC.

"Primarily, the NSWC specializes in independent assessments of the Navy's warfare systems. However, our group deals with Marine Corps calibration systems," said Galbreath. "The mission during this two-week process was to set up the new systems, train the Marines, and verify they are becoming subject-matter experts with their craft."

With the new upgrades Marines will be able to return the calibrated equipment to users immediately.

"There was a lot of equipment that came through our lab that we did not have the capability to calibrate, so what we would do is ship it to another lab in the states," said Schultz. "Now, with the newly advanced equipment we are able to perform those tasks here, which reduces turnaround time and increases our unit and the MEF's capabilities."

The verification of the systems that are calibrated hold a high degree of importance for the readiness



Lance Cpl. Jordan M. Siwert calibrates a torque wrench May 9 at the 3rd Maintenance Battalion calibration lab on Camp Kinser. Calibrating equipment is important for the operational readiness and safety of Marines in a combat, training or garrison environment. Siwert is a calibration technician with 3rd Maintenance Bn., Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

and safety of Marines in a combat, training or garrison environment, according to Schultz.

Precision and accuracy is imperative when calibrating equipment because every Marine depends on their equipment doing what it is designed to do, according to Lance Cpl. Justin W. Ivie, a calibration technician with the battalion.

The new calibration equipment presents a new challenge for the Marines, and the maintainers are anxious to learn how to use it to perfect their craft, ensuring Marines possess the equipment they need for mission success, according to Galbreath.

BAND from pg 1

of both countries.

"I don't usually listen to classical music, but tonight the bands played some pieces I was familiar with, so it was very enjoyable," said Kazuya Inafuku, an audience member and university student. "I think the friendship through music was great. I do think that music is a universal language, and it is something that anybody can enjoy. By playing together, I think they deepened their understanding of each other."

Prior to the concert, the students and Marines shared a learning experience by practicing together. The personalities of both bands came alive during the concert as students danced on stage and one Marine even operated four instruments at once using his hands and feet.

"This is the first time we have gotten to perform a concert together, and I think that everyone had a great time," said Gunnery Sgt. Shannon L. Farquhar, the enlisted conductor for the III MEF Band. "It's an opportunity for our Marines to share with them what we do, and it's an opportunity for us to learn what they do."

The idea for the bands to perform together was presented by Yoshihide Ikemiya, a graduate of the university, who submitted the idea during a contest hosted by G-7, government and external affairs, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. The contest invited Okinawa citizens to present ideas, which could further strengthen community relations between the Okinawa community and U.S. service members.

"I have many friends who are members of the University of Ryukyus Wind Orchestra Band Club, and they told me the band plays at various events outside the campus almost every month," said Ikemiya. "When I heard about the contest, I thought it would be great if the III MEF Band and the university's band could play together."

The band members agreed that Ikemiya's idea was a great opportunity for the Okinawa and military communities to come together.

"III MEF Band wanted to play with other musicians, so they were happy to hear about the idea for the concert," said Ikemiya. "I wanted to promote a positive relationship between the local community and the Marine Corps, so I am really glad to see it happen."

Although not everyone spoke the same language, the joint band was able to overcome the language barrier and make great music, according to Staff Sgt. Carlos Garza Jr., a section leader with the III MEF Band.

"The students are just like Marines because they are ready to adapt and overcome," said Garza. "We passed out music sheets during rehearsal and needed someone to play piccolo, and students eagerly volunteered for the part."

The musicians hope the concert will lead to future combined events, offering an opportunity to further cement the friendships started in the past few weeks, according to Garza.

"This was a great experience," said Garza. "I'm looking forward to strengthening our relationship with the community here ... and hopefully, in the near future, do more concerts together."



Republic of Korea Marines demonstrate martial arts techniques for U.S. Marines May 1 at the ROK 1st Marine Division base near Pohang, Republic of Korea. The ROK Marines hosted the U.S. Marines for a day of sports, food and demonstrations of ROK Marine and Korean traditions following two days of landing support training. The ROK Marines are with Landing Support Company, 1st Support Battalion, 1st Marine Division. The U.S. Marines are with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Landing Force Support Party. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

ROK, US Marines exchange techniques during training

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

POHANG, Republic of Korea — The Landing Force Support Party with the III Marine Expeditionary Force detachment at Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013 successfully completed its primary mission of facilitating and directing the offload of a maritime prepositioning force ship in the Republic of Korea April 28.

Immediately following the mission, the U.S. Marines joined their ROK Marine counterparts for bilateral training.

ROK Marine Landing Support Company, 1st Support Battalion, 1st Marine Division, hosted the LFSP for two days of training and knowledge-sharing April 28 and 30 at the ROK 1st Marine Division base near Pohang, Republic of Korea.

The LFSP was deployed to South Korea to participate in CJLOTS, a bilateral and joint maritime prepositioning force exercise. The MPF exercise demonstrated and improved the ROK and U.S. ability to generate and sustain force readiness and expeditionary operations.

The ROK Marine Corps and Navy conducted the biennial exercise April 19–28 with III MEF, U.S. Navy Expeditionary Strike Group 3, Army forces with U.S. Forces Korea and U.S. Coast Guard Port Unit 313.

“The ROK Marines have a landing support battalion, and they wanted to do some integrated training between their Marines and our Marines to cover landing support techniques and procedures,” said Capt. Robert M. Holt, the officer in charge of the LFSP. “We were able to cover some valuable skills in the amount of time we had.”

The ROK and U.S. Marines discussed capabilities, training and experience across a wide range of landing support missions, including air delivery and helicopter support team missions. The Marines also participated in military skills

training such as heavy-equipment operation and mine clearance.

“We would like to follow in the U.S. Marines’ footsteps,” said ROK Marine Capt. Hoang Ji Young, the company commander of LS Co. “They have a good reputation, and we would like to one day have the same reputation, that is why it is important for us to work and interact together.”

The training and knowledge-sharing improved interoperability between the partner nations’ forces.

“They do some things differently than we do, and it is good for the Marines to see another perspective of how to accomplish the mission,” said Holt. “You could say they are our sister company, and when we can train with them we definitely learn from it.”

The Marines concluded their cooperative training with a warriors’ night that included sports competitions, ROK Marine Corps martial arts demonstrations, and a traditional Korean musical performance and dinner May 1 at the base.

“The warriors’ night with the ROK Marines benefited two different, yet similar, services by bringing us together for a night of camaraderie and celebrating mission accomplishment,” said Gunnery Sgt. Derrick L. Watson, the LFSP staff noncommissioned officer in charge. “Every aspect of our warriors’ night was very enjoyable, especially the sporting competitions and martial arts and cultural demonstrations.”

Marines from both nations benefited from the less formal environment.

“The Marines had the opportunity to open up, relax and talk about things other than work,” said Watson. “It allowed them to sit back and discuss not just the mission but their culture and way of life.”

The company commanders from both countries expressed interest in continuing to train together.

“Hopefully we can get back here again and do some more training with them,” said Holt. “It was a good time for everyone involved.”



Republic of Korea Marine Lance Cpl. Hwang Jae Yong two days of landing support training during Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013. The U.S. Marines are with III Marine Expeditionary Force Landing Force Support Party.



Republic of Korea Marines sing the ROK Marines’ Hymn during the warriors’ night at the ROK 1st Marine Division base near Pohang, South Korea. Marines from both nations participated in the warriors’ night during training April 28 and 30. The U.S. Marines were in South Korea for the Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013 maritime prepositioning force exercise. The ROK Marines are with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Landing Force Support Party.



right, familiarizes U.S. Marines with a ROK armored bulldozer April 30 at the ROK 1st Marine Division base near Pohang, South Korea. The ROK and U.S. Marines came together for Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013, a joint and bilateral maritime prepositioning force exercise. The ROK Marine is with Landing Support Company, 1st Support Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Landing Force Support Party. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud



on to U.S. Marines as they depart following a warriors' night May 1 at the ROK 1st Marine Division base near Pohang, South Korea. The ROK and U.S. Marines came together for Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore 2013, a joint and bilateral maritime prepositioning force exercise. The ROK Marines are with Landing Support Company, 1st Support Battalion, 1st Marine Division, and the U.S. Marine Expeditionary Force Landing Force Support Party. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud



Lance Cpl. Cruze G. Parker, center-left, and Lance Cpl. Michael L. Price, center-right, exchange tie-down techniques for helicopter support team missions with Republic of Korea Marines April 30 at the ROK 1st Marine Division base near Pohang, South Korea. The ROK and U.S. Marines exchanged and practiced HST techniques and other landing support skills during the training. The ROK Marines are with Landing Support Company, 1st Support Battalion, 1st Marine Division. Parker and Price are airborne air delivery specialists with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Landing Force Support Party. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

Marines make lasting impressions at day care center

Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

First impressions leave a lasting impact with most people, especially children. As children grow, many reflect on past experiences and remember those who influenced their futures. Positive interaction with other nations and understanding diverse cultures and personalities are important things that make lasting impressions on youth.

Smiles were wide and laughter loud as Marines and sailors of Camp Schwab visited Himawari Gakudo Day Care Center May 11 to build such a relationship.

The day care center hosts more than 70 children ranging from ages 5-12, and the visit helped introduce the Marines to the children, according to Navy Lt. Reginald E. Jones, the chaplain for 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

"When 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, got to Okinawa, they hit the ground running with training," said Jones. "Now that we have been out here for a while, it was time for us to get more involved with the community."

Following introductions, the children impressed the service members with a demonstration of their ability to use a soroban. A soroban is comprised of an odd number of rods, each with beads on them that children use to complete mathematical equations.

Once the ice was broken, the children and service members began playing card games, darts, musical instruments and various sporting activities.

"I was so pleased to see the happy faces on all of the children today," said Yoichiro Higa, the director of the day care center. "The kids get very few opportunities to meet and interact with the American military members. This was a great



Pfc. Andre D. Edwards, left, draws with children during a visit at the Himawari Gakudo Day Care Center May 11. Marines and sailors from Camp Schwab visited the center to play games and interact with the children. Edwards is a motor vehicle operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

chance for them to play together. I hope this interaction was one of many to come in the future."

Community relations events like these offer the chance for Marines and sailors to experience a unique piece of Okinawa culture, according to Lance Cpl. Ricardo Gonzalez, a Marine Air-Ground Task Force planning specialist with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

"I always enjoy spending time with kids and knew this would be a great opportunity," said Gonzalez. "I figure if I'm out here having fun, maybe I can go back and encourage more Marines to participate."

These children are most likely the same ages of some of the Marines' younger siblings, according to Higa.

"I hope this relationship will continue to grow," said Higa. "The service members are al-

ways welcome here, and I know the children will look forward to future events."

Even with a slight language barrier between them, the service members and children did not hesitate to interact and relate with each other.

"I noticed one of the Marines was wearing a Japanese cartoon shirt," said an 11-year-old boy at the day care center. "I thought this was very cool and enjoyed spending time with the Marines."

With the recent resurgence of the unit deployment program, the Marines were able to get involved with the day care center after more than a decade, according to Fumio Iha, the community relations specialist for Camp Schwab.

"The day went exactly as we had hoped," said Iha. "With today's success, I hope we can establish a consistent presence at the day care center in the future."

2013 Aviation award winners, nominees recognized

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

For more than 100 years, Marine aviators have supported Marines in deployed and garrison environments. Today, Marine aviators continue to uphold the reputation and legacy their predecessors established.

In recognition of these efforts the Marine Corps Aviation Association's Joe Foss Squadron held its 2013 MCAA awards dinner May 9 at the Butler Officers' Club on Camp Foster.

The annual dinner honors the accom-

pishments of Marines and squadrons in the aviation community throughout the Marine Corps. This year the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing received 12 individual regional awards including the A. A. Cunningham Marine Aviator of the Year, Robert F. Gibson Aviation Command and Control Officer of the Year, and Jack W. Demond Aviation Ground Marine of the Year for

Lt. Col. William L. Depue Jr., Maj. James P. Woodward, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Jose R. Martinez, respectively.

Additionally, 1st MAW received nine unit-level regional awards including the Donald E. Davis Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron of the Year, John P. Giguere Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron of the Year and the Commandant's Aviation Trophy.

"Tonight is all about recognizing 1st MAW regional award-winners," said Col. Christopher J. Papaj, the assistant wing commander of 1st MAW, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It is for

their excellence in service and willingness to sacrifice their time to make their squadron and the 1st MAW better that we recognize these Marines."

The guest speaker, Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the com-

manding general of III MEF, noted the 1st MAW accomplishments.

"Tonight, we have the opportunity to recog-

nize the hard work and dedication of the Marines with 1st MAW," said Glueck. "As a fellow aviator, I am honored to be the guest speaker and be given this opportunity to award the winners."

Without the sacrifice and effort of every member of a team, the high standards for being nominated for the awards would never have been met, according to Depue, the commanding officer of Marine Wing Tiltrotor Squadron 265, 1st MAW, III MEF.

"I am honored to receive such an award for the squadron," said Depue, whose squadron was named the Fred McCorkle Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron of the Year. "If it wasn't for the Marines of the squadron constantly doing their best at their job, this would not have been possible."

Following award presentations, Maj. Gen. Christopher S. Owens, the commanding general of 1st MAW, acknowledged the diligence and professionalism of the squadrons.

"The 1st MAW is only as great as it is because of the efforts of the individual squadrons and how hard their Marines work," said Owens. "I am proud that I am the commanding general of such a hardworking unit."

"The 1st MAW is only as great as it is because of the efforts of the individual squadrons and how hard their Marines work."

Maj. Gen. Christopher S. Owens



Marines hook a 7,000-pound concrete block to an MV-22B Osprey during external lift training at the Kin Blue Training Area near Camp Hansen May 9. The Marines are landing support specialists with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

Landing support platoon performs external lifts

Cpl. Anthony Kirby

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As wind from an MV-22B Osprey's rotors whipped debris across the landing zone, Marines prepared to hook a 7,000-pound concrete block to the hovering aircraft.

Alertness was at an all-time high as landing support specialists assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, executed external lift training at the Kin Blue Training Area near Camp Hansen May 9.

As members of the 31st MEU, CLB-31 performs external lifts routinely to perfect its techniques and remain proficient.

"The goal is to get the Marines comfortable with the training, so they can conduct external lifts in various environments during real-world situations," said 2nd Lt. Wesley Jackson, a logistics officer and platoon commander with CLB-31. "It is a very important capability that can provide the MEU's commanding officer with more flexibility when it comes to planning and supporting operations."

As part of the training scenario, the Osprey moved a 7,000-pound concrete block to different locations in the training area to simulate equipment being transported.

The loading team, which consists of five to nine Marines, bears much of the responsibility when preparing to execute an external lift. A loading team is comprised of outside coordinators who guide the aircraft into a hover position over the cargo. Once the aircraft is in position, inside coordinators use hand-and-arm signals to communicate with the outside coordinators who signal the pilots to adjust the aircraft's elevation so that a hook, which is

connected to the bottom of the aircraft, is able to secure the cargo. Once the hook is in place, two Marines connect the cargo to the aircraft.

Immediately following the connection, the aircraft slowly ascends to transport the cargo.

"Basically, we can take just about anything within a certain weight limit and hook it to the bottom of the aircraft, which allows us to expedite the movement of food, vehicles or other supplies," said Sgt. James Scarse, a landing support specialist and platoon sergeant with CLB-31.

Marines assigned to S-4, supply and logistics, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, attended and observed the training.

Although their responsibility during this exercise was to watch and learn, the Marines will be expected to perform external lifts following additional familiarization and hands-on training, according to Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Suber, logistics chief with 4th Marine Regiment.

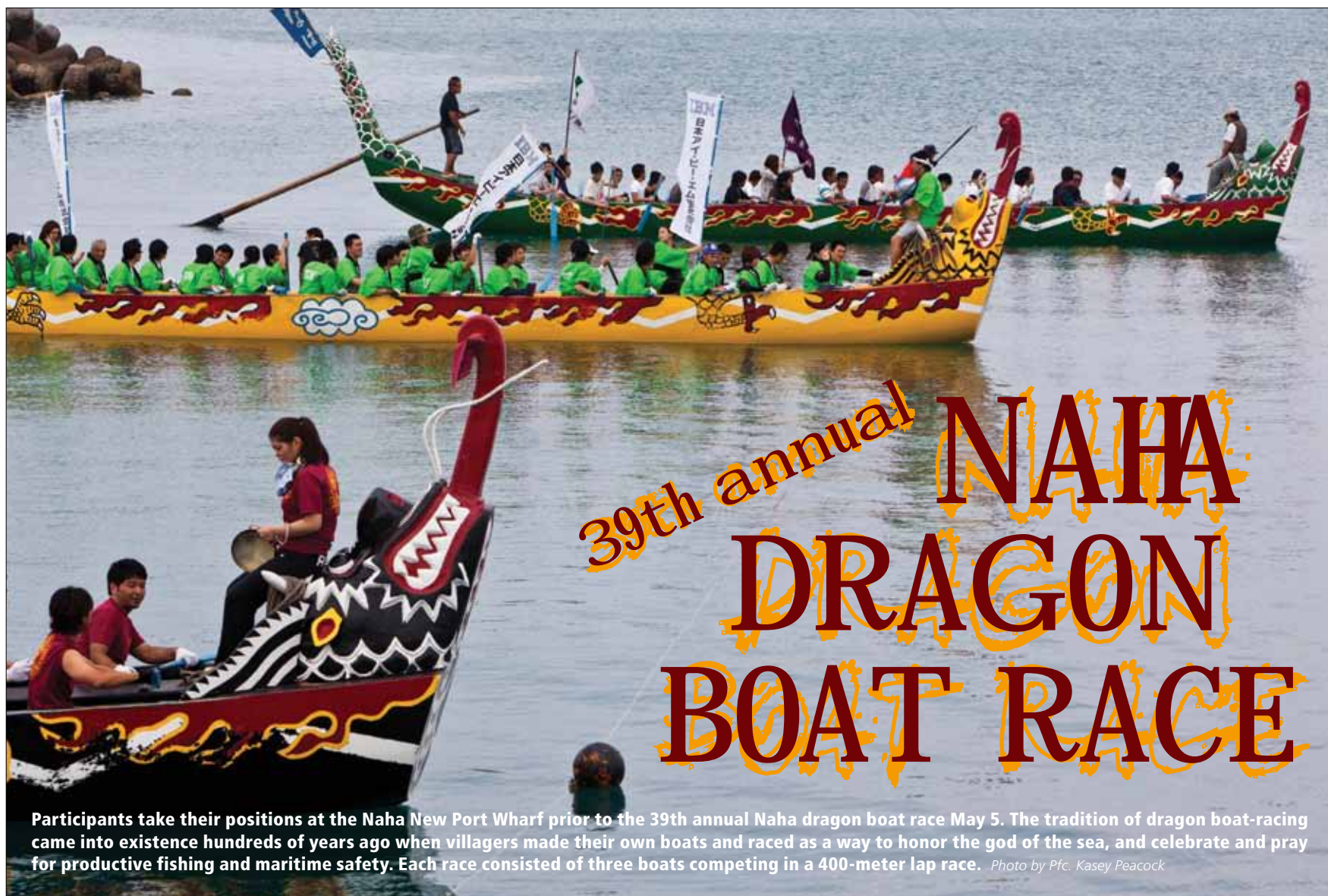
"We train to expand our capability in case we find ourselves in a situation where we will need it," said Suber. "There is not always a landing support specialist available, so we need to have the knowledge to complete the mission."

All involved increased their skills with external lifts and as they continue to practice, they will continue to progress, according to Scarse.

"I feel proud when I see everything go as planned," said Scarse. "It means that my peers and I have done our job making sure these guys are trained. When it's time for us to use these skills, I have absolutely no doubt that's what we'll do."



A Marine guides an MV-22B Osprey into a hover position over a 7,000-pound concrete block as part of external lift training at the Kin Blue Training Area near Camp Hansen May 9. The Marine is a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock



39th annual NAHA DRAGON BOAT RACE

Participants take their positions at the Naha New Port Wharf prior to the 39th annual Naha dragon boat race May 5. The tradition of dragon boat-racing came into existence hundreds of years ago when villagers made their own boats and raced as a way to honor the god of the sea, and celebrate and pray for productive fishing and maritime safety. Each race consisted of three boats competing in a 400-meter lap race. Photo by Pfc. Kasey Peacock

Okinawa residents, Marines compete in annual boat race

Cpl. Anthony Kirby

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The crowd grew silent as it watched competitors tensely grip their oars.

Moments later the silence was shattered by an instantaneous eruption of splashing and cheering as the 39th annual Naha Haarii Festival commenced at the Naha New Port Wharf May 5.

The tradition of dragon boat-racing began hundreds of years ago when villagers made their own boats and raced as a way to honor the god of the sea, and celebrate and pray for productive fishing and maritime safety.

Each race consisted of three boats competing in a 400-meter lap. The race attracts a variety of national and international competitors.

The single Marine program has participated in the race for more than a decade, introducing many Marines to a small part of Okinawa culture. Three months before the race, the SMP team began practicing the fundamentals and techniques of rowing alongside the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's explosive ordnance disposal team.

"We started off rowing about 100 meters and gradually worked our way up to 600 meters," said Lance Cpl. Randall B. O'Neil, a member of the SMP team and tactical switch operator with 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The SMP team enjoys the competitive



The single Marine program team paddles through the Naha New Port Wharf during the 39th annual Naha dragon boat race May 5. The SMP team began learning rowing fundamentals and techniques from members of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's explosive ordnance disposal team three months prior to the race. Photo By Cpl. Anthony Kirby

nature of the race, but it finds the event to be more than a competition, according to Randolph Mitchell, the SMP program director.

"It gives them an opportunity to experience more activities on Okinawa and get involved with the SMP," said Mitchell.

Participating in events like this demonstrates how Marines strive to learn more

about their overseas home.

"The Marines are guests here," said Satsuki Fraling, a single Marine program coordinator and one of the coaches for the SMP

team. "It's good when they go outside of their bases and see the different things that are offered in town and build a good relationship within the community."

Community members also found the event to be a good chance for Americans to show support for the traditions of their host nation, according to Masashi Kinjyo, a member of the Ryukyu Yosemite team.

"We do this more for fun, and we keep doing it because it brings everyone together," said Kinjyo.

"Dragon boat racing is harder than it looks," said Fraling. "It takes a lot of coordination to get 32 people to row at the same time."

Although the SMP team did not finish as strongly as it hoped, the team had a blast during the competition, according to Fraling.

"It gives them an opportunity to experience more activities on Okinawa and get involved with the SMP."

Randolph Mitchell

In Theaters Now

MAY 17 - 24

FOSTER

TODAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6 p.m.; Peeples (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Peeples (PG13), noon; Oblivion (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6 p.m.; 21 & Over (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Escape From Planet Earth (PG), 1 p.m.; The Great Gatsby (PG13), 4 p.m.; Peeples (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY 21 & Over (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Escape From Planet Earth (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Peeples (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Peeples (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Great Gatsby (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Oblivion (PG13), noon; Peeples (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.; The Great Gatsby (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Peeples (PG13), 1 and 4 p.m.; The Great Gatsby (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Peeples (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 21 & Over (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Big Wedding (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 3 p.m.; Peeples (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 3 p.m.; 21 & Over (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY 21 & Over (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Peeples (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Peeples (PG13), 4 p.m.; Oblivion (PG13), 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 4 p.m.; 21 & Over (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Peeples (PG13), 3 p.m.; Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 12:30 p.m.; The Great Gatsby (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Peeples (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY 21 & Over (R), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Admission (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Peeples (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY 21 & Over (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6 p.m.; 21 & Over (R), 10 p.m.
SATURDAY 21 & Over (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 2 p.m.; 21 & Over (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6 p.m.; 21 & Over (R), 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Peeples (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY 21 & Over (R), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing and 3-D availability visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

OKUMA MEMORIAL DAY

• The SMP is providing a shuttle service to Okuma Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27. There will be a \$10 bus fee payable to the SMP office. Deadline for registration is May 17. For more information call the SMP at the phone number above.

DISCOVER GOLF LESSONS

• Golf lessons are available to single Marines and sailors at Taiyo Golf Course the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. Participants meet at the Camp Foster SMP office by 8 a.m.

Mention of any company in this notice does not imply endorsement by the Marine Corps.

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

During which battle did 1st Lt. Kurt Chew-Een Lee, the first USMC officer of Asian decent, earn the Navy Cross?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:
Which Marine went on to design the AR-10 rifle, which evolved into the M16 and M4 service rifles currently used by Marines?

ANSWER:
Eugene Stoner, who served as an aviation ordnanceman during World War II.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Oyasumi nasai”

(pronounced: oh-yah-su-mee nah-sah-ee)

It means, “Good night.”

CHAPLAINS'

ORNER

“God is lovingly and patiently waiting for you to return to Him.”



Faith provides foundation, guidance

Lt. Wesley Scholtz

MCAS FUTENMA H&HS SQUADRON CHAPLAIN

One of our nation's greatest service songs is “Anchors Aweigh.” In the song, those living aboard the ship are commanded to pull the anchor up, secure it, and set sail for distant shores. Being stationed on Okinawa is the epitome of setting sails for distant shores. Oftentimes when I am counseling Marines and sailors who are new to the island, I remind them that God is here on Okinawa. He is always near. I encourage them to hold fast to God while they are here and continue to grow in their relationship with Him.

However, sometimes we let our relationship with God fall by the wayside. Anytime we move, it is easy to forget about God. We get busy enrolling the kids in school, meeting our new command personnel, and everything else

that requires our time.

Somehow, God takes a back seat in this process. Everything is new and exciting, but eventually “life” happens. Things begin to get off-center, unfocused and difficult. We may begin to experience issues with coworkers, our families or our friends. Instead of drawing close to God in these times of need, some people continue on without Him, wondering why things are in such disarray.

But the truth is, God is always near! God is lovingly and patiently waiting for you to return to Him. Your chaplains are here to guide you in this process regardless of where you are. Your chapels are a good place to not only grow in your spiritual health, but also to find fellowship among people who will encourage you. By fellowshiping with positive, like-minded individuals, you can thrive in any environment and make any place feel more like home.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL AND LOOK UNDER “AROUND MCIPAC”